



**NORTH DAKOTA**  
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:  
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### **North Dakota Observes National Viral Hepatitis Awareness Month**

BISMARCK, N.D. – In observance of National Viral Hepatitis Awareness Month in May, the North Dakota Department of Health is encouraging individuals born between 1945 and 1965 to know their hepatitis C status, according to Sarah Weninger, Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator for the Department of Health.

Individuals born between 1945 and 1965 are five times more likely to be infected with hepatitis C than those from other age groups. Many individuals do not experience symptoms of hepatitis C and do not know that they are infected. Symptoms of chronic hepatitis C can take up to 30 years to develop. When symptoms do appear, they often are a sign of advanced liver disease. Symptoms of hepatitis C can include fever, fatigue, vomiting, abdominal pain and jaundice.

“National Viral Hepatitis Awareness Month is a great opportunity to raise awareness about viral hepatitis since as many as 75 percent of those infected with chronic hepatitis C do not know they are infected,” Weninger said. “Hepatitis C is the most common blood-borne infection in the United States and is the leading cause of liver cancer in the United States. As many as 70 percent to 80 percent of all people who have hepatitis C will develop long-term infections. However, once the infection is identified, treatment options are available.”

For more information, call the North Dakota Department of Health’s Viral Hepatitis Program at 701.328.2378 or 800.472.2180 or visit [www.ndhealth.gov/disease/hepatitis](http://www.ndhealth.gov/disease/hepatitis).

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*Please note: To access archived news releases and other information, visit the North Dakota Department of Health Press Room at [www.nddohpressroom.gov](http://www.nddohpressroom.gov).*

### **Hepatitis C Radio Promos**

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**Hepatitis C – General (30 seconds)**

Did you know that hepatitis is a leading cause of liver cancer? Millions of Americans have hepatitis C, yet up to seventy five percent of people don't know it. This disease often has no symptoms, so talk to your doctor to see if you are at risk. May is Hepatitis Awareness Month. Early detection can save lives.

**Hepatitis C – General (30 seconds)**

Do you know about hepatitis C? Hepatitis C is a leading cause of liver cancer. Millions of Americans have hepatitis C, but up to seventy five percent of people don't know it. People can live with hepatitis C for decades without having symptoms or feeling sick. Talk to your doctor. Early detection can save lives.

**Three Facts about Hepatitis C (30 seconds)**

Three facts you should know about hepatitis C. One. Hepatitis C is a leading cause of liver cancer. Two. Hepatitis C testing is *not* part of routine blood work. Three. Millions of Americans have hepatitis C, but most don't know it. This disease often has no symptoms. Talk to your doctor. Early detection can save lives.

**Hepatitis C – General (15 seconds)**

Did you know that millions of Americans have hepatitis C? Yet most don't know it. Hepatitis is the leading cause of liver cancer, but it doesn't have to be. Talk to your doctor.

**Viral Hepatitis: Risk Assessment (30 seconds)**

Chronic hepatitis is a leading cause of liver cancer and liver transplants in the U S. Millions of Americans are living with chronic hepatitis, and most do not know they are infected. Take five minutes to answer a series of questions and find out if you are at risk, using CDC's online Hepatitis Risk Assessment. Visit [w w w dot cdc dot gov slash hepatitis slash risk assessment](http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HepPromoRadioPSA.htm).

Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HepPromoRadioPSA.htm>